AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims on the application. All claims are set forth below with one of the following annotations.

- (Original): Claim filed with the application following the specification.

- (Currently amended): Claim being amended in the current amendment paper.

- (Cancelled): Claim cancelled or deleted from the application.

- (Withdrawn): Claim still in the application, but in a non-elected status.

- (New): Claim being added in the current amendment paper.

- (Previously presented): Claim not being currently amended, but which was amended or was new in a previous amendment paper.

- (Not entered): Claim presented in a previous amendment, but not entered or whose entry status unknown. No claim text is shown.

1-6   (Cancelled)

7.   (Original) A processor configured to process contents of packets passing through a connection point on a computer network, the processor comprising:

(a)   a buffer for receiving at least some of the contents of each packet passing through the connection point;

(b)   a memory containing one or more instructions of an instruction set for the state processor;

(c)   an arithmetic logic unit (ALU) coupled to the buffer;

(d)   a control block coupled to the ALU and to the instruction memory for decoding instructions; and

(e)   a program counter coupled to the instruction memory and to the ALU for indicating the next state processor instruction in the memory to process,

wherein the ALU includes a searching apparatus comprising one or more comparators for searching for a reference string in the contents of a packet.

8.   (Original) A processor according to claim 7, wherein the state processor processes contents of all packets passing through the connection point in real time.

9.   (Original) A processor according to claim 7, wherein the instruction set includes an instruction for invoking the searching apparatus of the ALU to search for a specified reference string in the packet starting at an unknown location within a range of the packet.

10.   (Original) A processor according to claim 7, wherein the searching apparatus searches for any of a set of reference strings in the contents of a packet, and wherein the instruction set includes an instruction for invoking the searching apparatus to search for any of a set of specified reference strings in the packet starting at an unknown location within a range of the packet.

11-26. (Cancelled)